

I. INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is making improvements to U.S. Highway 1 in Lee, Chatham, and Wake Counties, North Carolina (TIP No. R-2500). Part of the project includes the replacement and construction of the US Highway 1 bridges over the Deep River at the border of Lee and Chatham Counties (Figures 1 - 4). These bridges cross through a National Register property known as the Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse Site (State Site Number 31CH 690).

Initial planning studies for the U.S. Highway 1 project were conducted in 1991. As part of that study, NCDOT archaeologists considered the impacts to historical and archaeological properties that might result from highway construction and replacement of the bridges, and the obligations NCDOT has to protect these historical and archaeological resources. According to information provided by project planning engineers at the time, it did not appear that the archaeological remains associated with the Lockville Dam, Canal and Powerhouse Site would be disturbed by construction (Robinson 1991). However, as part of that assessment, it was noted that there could be disturbances to significant archaeological resources if drainage improvements were added along the margin of the construction zone or if the area was to be used as a staging area for construction. Actions were recommended in the report so these potential impacts could be avoided, or at least identified prior to construction (Robinson 1991:13).

At the onset of the bridge construction activities in 1996, however, NCDOT construction managers determined that the construction impact zone would be larger than originally anticipated. This was due to the construction of a haul road and bridge over the canal to permit access to the bridge supports, and associated drainage facilities. The Area of Potential Effect (APE) was determined to extend into an area containing a large stone retaining wall, architectural ruins and other archaeological remains (Figures 5 - 7). Archaeologists with the NCDOT were contacted to review and assess the potential disturbances. After review of the project plans, it was determined that there would be unanticipated destruction and disturbances to several major archaeological features. Redesign of the project plans to avoid impacting the archaeological features was determined impracticable at that late stage in the project. After this was determined, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted and discussions were initiated on how best to mitigate unavoidable adverse impacts to the site (Figure 7c). As a result of the consultations, the general areas containing important archaeological features were identified and marked so they would not be disturbed by construction of the haul road and associated drainage features, while allowing the construction to proceed in the surrounding area. To mitigate the eventual loss of archaeological and historical information from the area to be disturbed, it was decided to plan and conduct an archaeological data recovery investigation that would permanently document the archaeological resources that would be destroyed or disturbed. To expedite the investigation, NCDOT archaeologists were assigned to conduct the investigation, with Kenneth Robinson designated as Principal Investigator.

The investigation was conducted between April and June, 1996. The investigation was limited to that portion of NCDOT right of way which contained significant archaeological

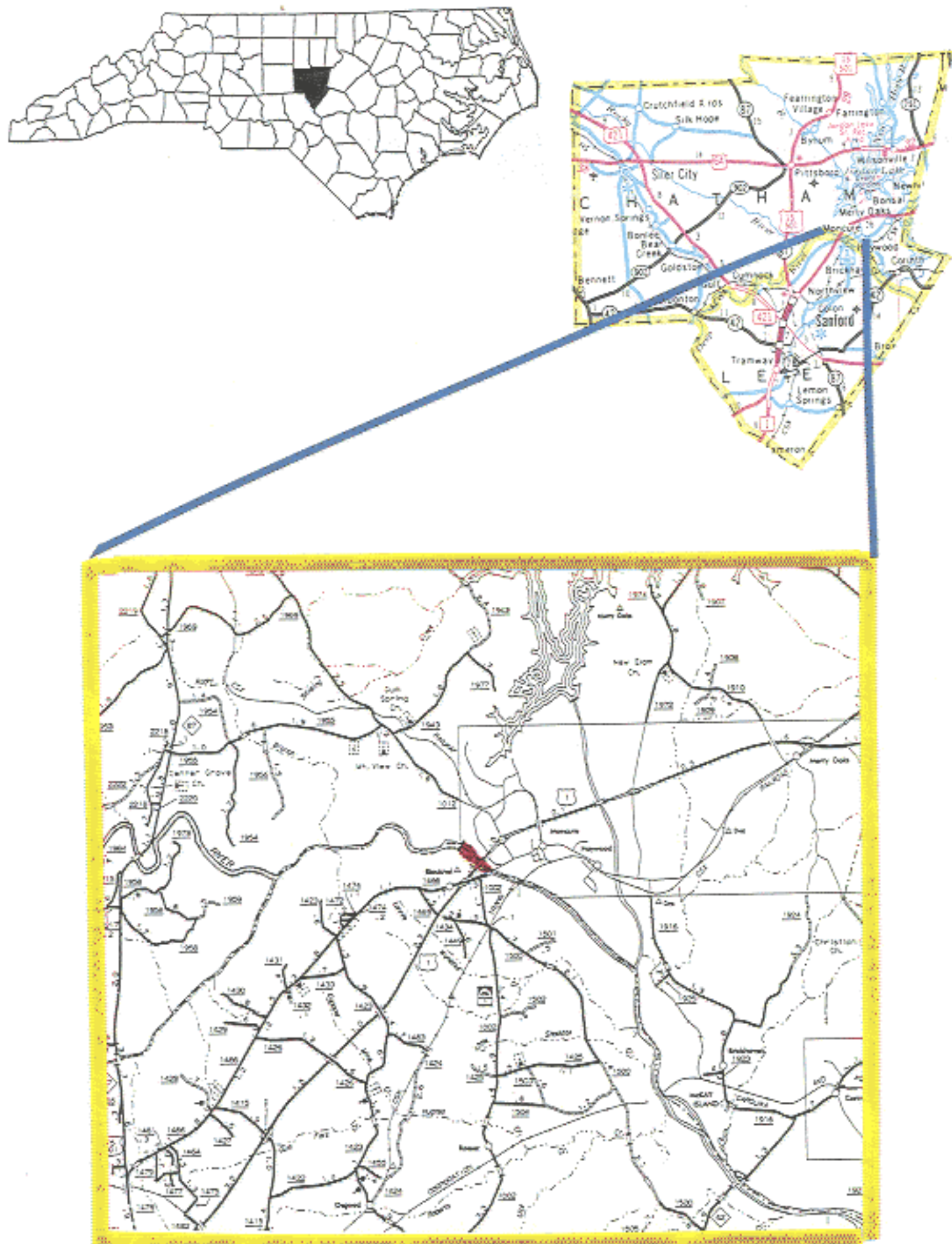
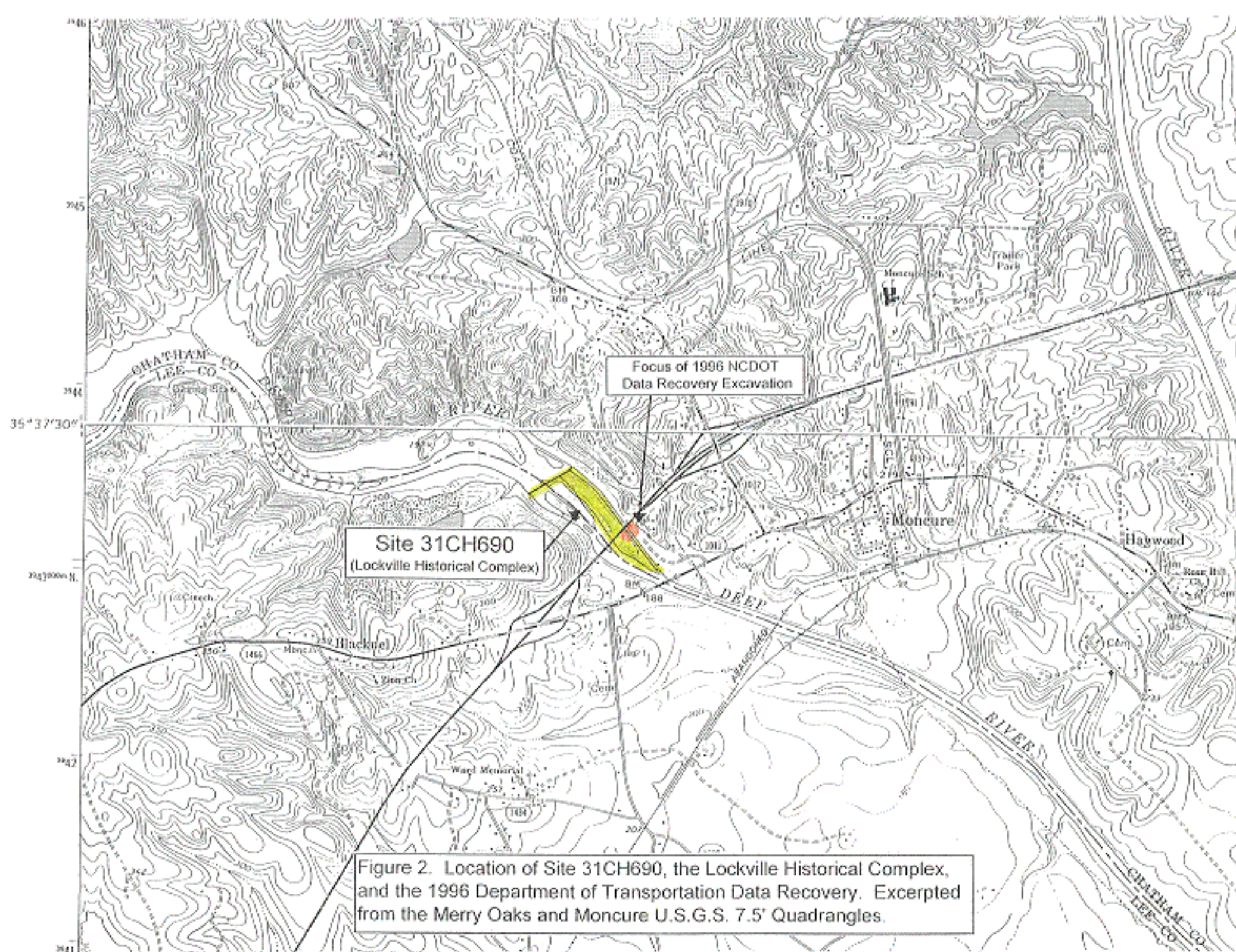


Figure 1. Location of Site 31CH690, the Lockville Historical Complex.



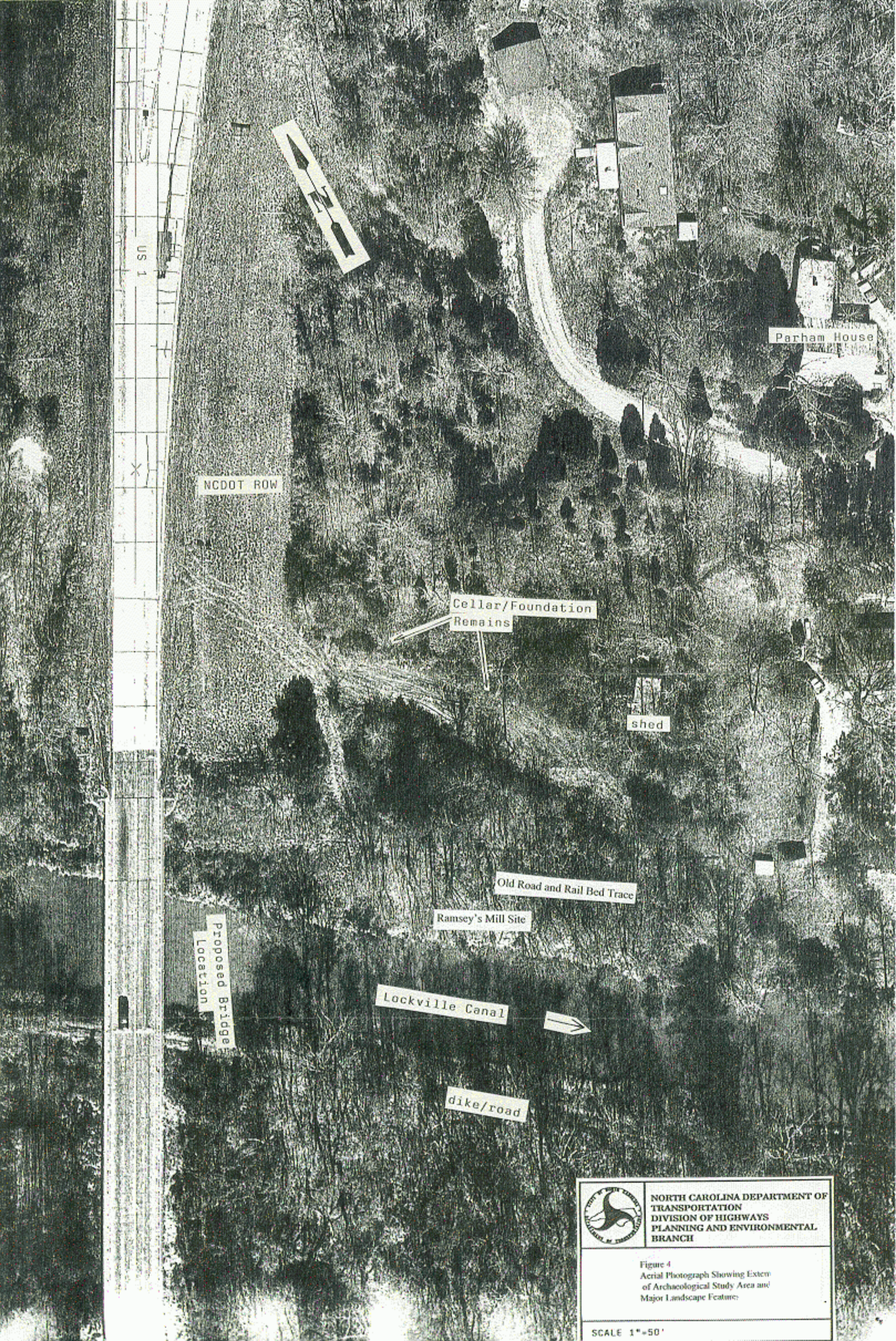


a



b

Figure 3. General Views of Project Area and Lockville Canal



US 1

NCCDOT ROW

Parham House

Cellar/Foundation
Remains

shed

Old Road and Rail Bed Trace

Ramsey's Mill Site

Proposed Bridge
Location

Lockville Canal

dike/road



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BRANCH

Figure 4
Aerial Photograph Showing Extent
of Archaeological Study Area and
Major Landscape Features

SCALE 1"=50'

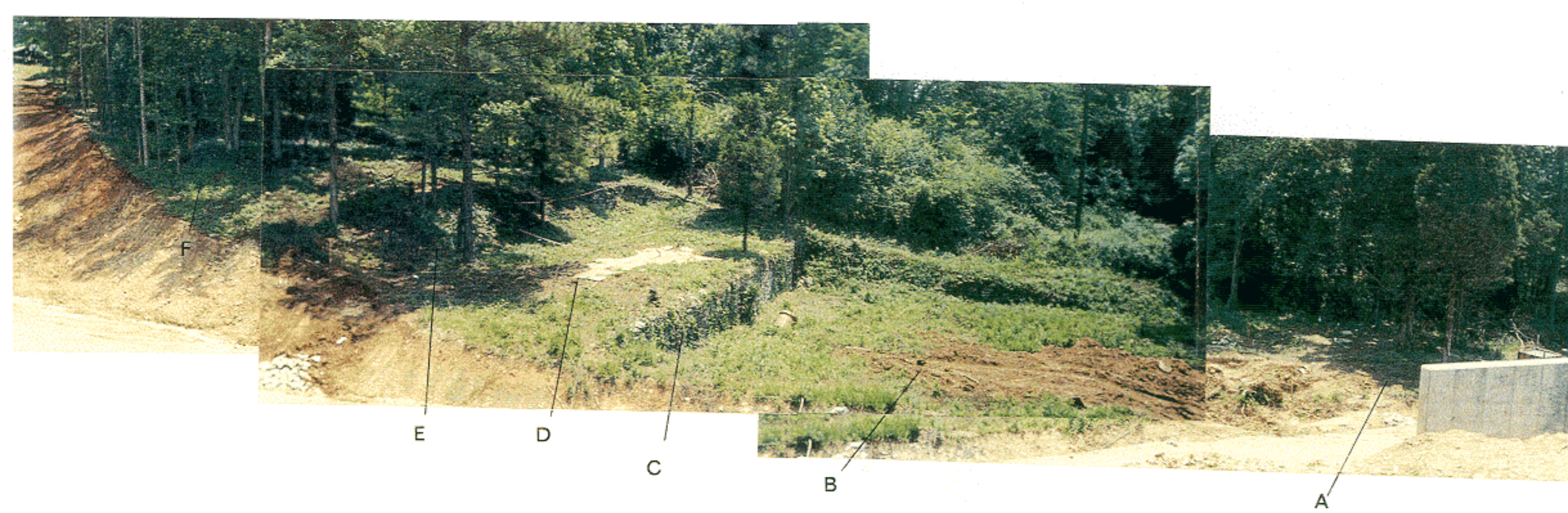


Figure 5. General View of Archaeological Study Area (facing east). (a) Store Mound; (b) Lower Terrace; (c) Wall 1; (d) First Terrace; (e) Wall 2; (f) Upper Slope.

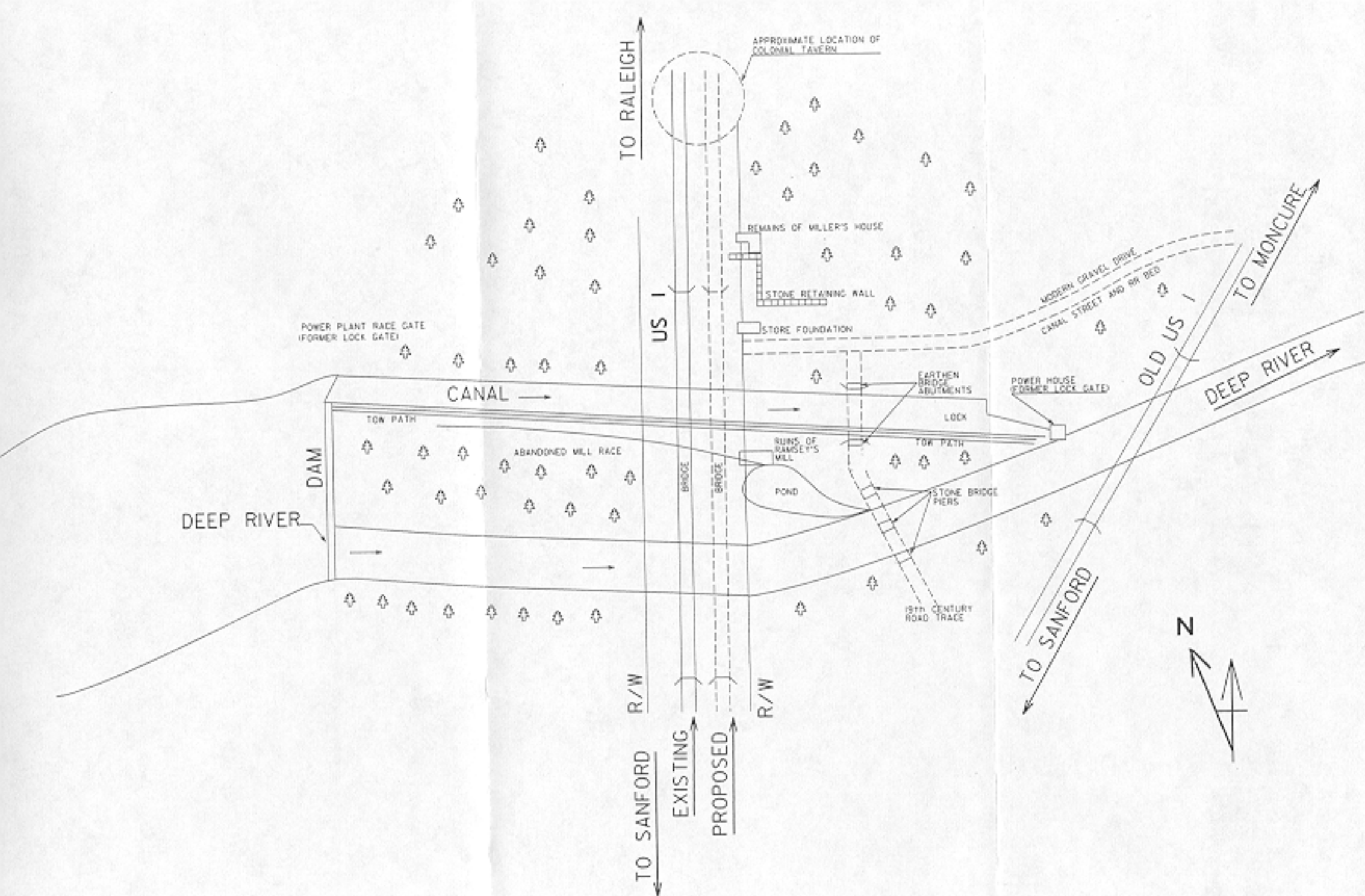


Figure 6. Plan Drawing of Archaeological Study Area and Vicinity.



a



c



b

Figure 7. Archaeological Study Area Being Cleared of Vegetation and Consultation with State Historic Preservation Office Archaeologist.

features or remains (Figures 4 - 6). The archaeological study resulted in the documentation of several very large and prominent features associated with the historic Ramsey's Mill and the historic village of Lockville, a small community that developed along the Deep River in the 1850s next to the Lockville Canal, Lock and Dam complex. Archaeological features documented during the investigation included a terraced hillside with stone retaining walls, the remains of a miller's house, a subterranean cellar and well, and the foundations of a store structure which faced onto the canal. Also investigated were the foundation and spill pond of Ramsey's Mill, a prominent nineteenth century industrial site with origins in the late eighteenth century.

The remainder of this report provides a summary of the archaeological documentation effort and the data recovered during the investigation of the Lockville Historic Complex (Site 31CH690). The report is divided into sections which describe the background of the project and the project area, review the historical context of the Lockville Lock and Dam/Ramsey's Mill complex, and present the results of the archaeological documentation. A historical and project summary, along with compliance recommendations also are presented.